

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 10-11, and 20 are amended. Claims 1-20 are pending.

The amendments to the claims are based on the application as originally filed, so it is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

In the office action, claims 1-3, 6-13, and 16-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of U.S. published patent application number US 2005/0033669 A1 to Stremler et al., and claims 4-5 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Stremler et al.

Stremler et al. is directed to an automated system and method for coordinating donors for philanthropic causes, providing “tools for donor users to manage information about themselves and entities in which they have donated or that they are monitoring” (Stremler, abstract). In Stremler, “The preferred embodiment also includes a Donor Application to provide complete donor services. This includes the ability to find and research projects or possible interested (sic “interests”?"), transfer assets into the Company trust, use assets to fund projects, and observe and monitor the projects. This application also provides the donor with tools to analyze and manage their giving.” (Stremler, page 28, paragraph [0603]).

Independent claim 1 is amended to clearly distinguish the claimed invention from Stremler et al., such that the method of claim 1 includes the step of:

providing tools for:

recruiting additional volunteers; and

managing and scheduling the volunteer activities of the additional volunteers to complete volunteer tasks.

Independent claim 11 is also amended to clearly distinguish the claimed invention from Stremler et al., such that the system of claim 11 includes means for providing tools for recruiting additional volunteers, and managing and scheduling the volunteer activities of the additional volunteers to complete volunteer tasks.

Independent claims 1 and 11, as amended, are patentable over Stremler, since Stremler does not disclose or suggest a method or system, respectively, having the steps or means, respectively, for providing tools for recruiting additional volunteers, and managing and scheduling the volunteer activities of the additional volunteers to complete volunteer tasks.

One having ordinary skill in the art would not look to Stremler for the elements, steps, and features of amended claims 1 and 11, since Stremler et al. is directed to coordinating donors for philanthropic causes, but does not involve recruiting or coordinating volunteers, as in the present invention. In addition, the features of managing and scheduling the volunteer activities of the additional volunteers to complete volunteer tasks, for example, by checking tasks and notifying team members of such completion in the present invention, are totally alien to the donation-oriented system of Stremler, so the present invention is not and could not be suggested from the disclosure of Stremler.

In fact, Stremler makes a single off-hand reference to “volunteers” in an optional feature described on page 7, paragraph [0201], in which the donor management system of Stremler is used in a business which “may also provide assistance with management and operation of the charitable organization 534, such as assistance with budgets, human resources, supply chain management, and volunteer management”.

One having ordinary skill in the art would not look to this single reference to providing “assistance with …volunteer management” in Stremler for the more involved tools for “managing and scheduling the volunteer activities of the additional volunteers to complete volunteer tasks” of the present invention. In particular, one having ordinary skill the art would not read “managing … to complete volunteer tasks” of claims 1 and 11 into the phrase “volunteer management” in Stremler, since Stremler is devoid of any suggestion as to what “volunteer management” encompasses.

For example, “volunteer management” may be limited to listing the names of volunteers, or providing a contact telephone number for someone handling a given volunteer task. Since Stremler lacks any discussion of the extent of such “volunteer management”, one skilled in the art would not look to Stremler for the completion of volunteer tasks or the managing and scheduling the volunteer activities of the additional volunteers to complete the volunteer tasks as in the present invention.

Furthermore, there is no other reference or mention of “volunteers”, “volunteering”, or “volunteer management” throughout the remaining disclosure of Stremler, but instead the system and method of Stremler is directed exclusively to donors and the management of donations. Accordingly, such language of amended claims 1 and 11 for providing tools to “manage and schedule volunteer activities of the additional volunteers to complete volunteer tasks” would not apply to donors themselves, since donors would presumably need not be managed and scheduled by others to complete their own donations.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Stremler et al.

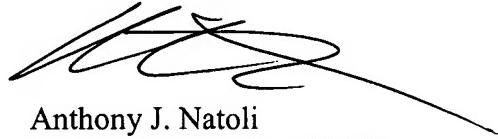
Claims 2-10 and 12-20 depend from independent claims 1 and 11, respectively, and so includes the recitation of amended claims 1 and 11, respectively. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, claims 2-10 and 12-20 are also patentable over Stremler et al.

Therefore, claims 1-20 are patentable over Stremler et al., so reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

Accordingly, entry and approval of the present amendment and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

In case of any deficiencies in fees by the filing of the present amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such deficiencies in fees to Deposit Account Number 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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